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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/540,811	11/04/2005	Joerg Schroter	2002P01599WOUS	6353
46726 7590 01/25/2008 BSH HOME APPLIANCES CORPORATION INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DEPARTMENT 100 BOSCH BOULEVARD NEW BERN, NC 28562				
EXAMINER				
MULLER, BRYAN R				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3723				
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01/25/2008		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/540,811

Applicant(s)

SCHROTER, JOERG

Examiner

BRYAN R. MULLER

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 November 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 14-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 17-26, 30-34 and 36 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 14-16, 27-29 and 35 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 June 2005 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 6/22/2005
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Claims 17-26, 30-34 and 36 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in the reply filed on 11/19/2007.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the slot defined in the pick-up element (claim 28) must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

3. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an

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application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

4. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

5. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because the abstract includes the legal phraseology term "said" in lines 5 and 7. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Objections

6. Claim 35 is objected to because of the following informalities: the term "coupling means" is unclear because it appears to be an attempt to invoke 112, sixth paragraph. However, the applicant does not disclose in the specification any specific "coupling

means" for coupling the handle to the extension means for the elected species of Fig. 1. Therefore, it is unclear what the applicant is referring to as the "coupling means" for the elected embodiment. The only disclosure for the elected embodiment regarding the handle being attached to the extension means discloses that they are connected but does not specify how. Thus, it is suggested that the applicant amend the claim to remove the terms "coupling means" and disclose that the handle is coupled to the extension means, to clarify the claim, and the claim will be treated as such for the sake of the current Office Action. Additionally, the term "the mobile handle" lacks proper antecedent basis. Thus, it is further suggested that the applicant delete the term "mobile" from line 14 of claim 35. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

8. Claims 14-16, 27 and 35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Persson (3,999,640).

9. In reference to claim 14, Persson discloses a vacuum cleaner which comprises a body (10) provided with a cable winding device (11) arranged therein and used for winding and unwinding a power supply cable (13) which is provided with an electric plug (14) connected to an electric power network, and an auxiliary device (21) for moving

said electric plug from a first position (shown in Fig. 1), where the power supply cable is wound to the shortest length thereof, into a second position (Fig. 2) where said power supply cable or electric plug can be taken by hand for unwinding the power supply cable, wherein the vacuum cleaner is provided with a mobile handle (lid 16 is inherently capable of being used as a handle to pick-up or move the vacuum cleaner when it is in the extended position shown in Fig. 2) connected to the auxiliary device, and when the handle is moved, the auxiliary device is activated.

10. In reference to claim 15, Persson further discloses that the auxiliary device comprises a pick-up element (21), which when the handle is moved out of its home position (home position shown in Fig. 1) moves the electric plug into the second position (Fig. 2).

11. In reference to claim 16, Persson further discloses that the pick-up element (21) is attached to the handle (16).

12. In reference to claim 27, Persson discloses a vacuum cleaner comprising: a vacuum cleaner body (10); a power supply cable (13) connected to the body and having an electric plug (14) disposed at an end of the power supply cable; a handle (16; inherently capable of being used as a handle, as discussed supra) connected to the body for movement with respect to the body between an inoperative position (Fig. 1) and a carrying position (Fig. 2); and an auxiliary device (21) engaging the electric plug and being movable with respect to the body between a first position (Fig. 1), in which the electric plug is retracted adjacent the body, and a second position (Fig. 2), in which the auxiliary device extends the electric plug outwardly away from the body, the

auxiliary device being coupled to the handle and being movable between the first and second positions in response to movement of the handle between the inoperative and carrying positions.

13. In reference to claim 35, Persson discloses a vacuum cleaner comprising: a vacuum cleaner body (10); a power supply cable (13) connected to the body and having an electric plug (14) disposed at an end of the power supply cable opposite the body; a cable winding device (11) disposed within the body for winding and unwinding the power supply cable; a handle (16; inherently capable of being used as a handle, as discussed supra) connected to the body for movement with respect to the body between an inoperative position (Fig. 1) and a carrying position (Fig. 2); an extension means (21; considered to be a functional and structural equivalent to the applicant's disclosed "extension means") for engaging the electric plug and being movable with respect to the body between a first position (Fig. 1), in which the electric plug is retracted adjacent the body, and a second position (Fig. 2), in which the extension means extends the electric plug outwardly away from the body; and a coupling means coupling the handle to the extension means for moving the extension means in response to movement of the mobile handle.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

14. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

15. Claims 28 and 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Persson (3,999,640) in view of Clowers et al. (4,106,165).
16. In reference to claim 28, Persson discloses the vacuum cleaner of claim 27, as discussed supra, and further discloses that the auxiliary pick-up device (21) comprises a hook-shaped pick-up element defining a hole (22) therein for receiving the power supply cable, the pick-up element engaging the electric plug and being movable between the first and second positions. The pick-up element is hook-shaped in that the term "hook" is defined as "a curved or angular piece of metal or other hard substance for catching, pulling, holding, or suspending something"¹ wherein the pick-up element clearly is angular, in that the element angles at the pivot point (at attachment point with portion 20) toward the handle (16) for connection with the handle, thus making the element an angular piece that is used for catching, pulling and holding the plug. Further, the element is obviously a hard substance, being formed as part of the vacuum housing and designed to withstand impact from the plug being returned to the element by the cable winding device (11). Therefore, the pick-up element reads on the definition of "hook-shaped". However, Persson fails to disclose that the hole (22) in the pick-up element is a slot. Clowers discloses an element that is designed to catch and hold a plug in a desired position, wherein the element comprises a slot (50) for the power cable to pass through, which also allows a user to easily remove the cable from the element if necessary,

¹ *Dictionary.com Unabridged (v 1.1)*

Based on the Random House Unabridged Dictionary, © Random House, Inc., 2006.

which would allow for easier assembly because a the slot would not require the entire power cable to be threaded through a hole or require attachment of the plug to the power cable after passing the cable through the hole, and will also make it easier to remove the cord from the element if the cord or element needs to be removed or replaced for maintenance or repair. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form the hole (22) of Persson as a slot, as taught by Clowers, to allow a user to easily position the cable within the pick-up element or remove the cable from the pick-up element.

17. In reference to claim 29, Persson further discloses that the pick-up element (21) is fixed to the handle (16).

Conclusion

18. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Descarries (2,961,688) and Masakuza (JP 05-207945.) both disclose vacuum cleaners having similar structure and/or function as the applicant's claimed invention and Huber (2,979,576) discloses an auxiliary element for moving an electric plug out of a housing for grasping by a user that is similar to the auxiliary device disclosed by the applicant.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to BRYAN R. MULLER whose telephone number is

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(571)272-4489. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Thursday and second Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph J. Hail III can be reached on (571) 272-4485. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Bryan R Muller/
Examiner, Art Unit 3723
1/22/2008